

Lake Minnewawa Association
2008 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2008 annual meeting of the Lake Minnewawa Association was called to order by LMA Board President Bev Rath.

The President called upon The Board Members present to introduce them. Members present included Vice President Ron Conzet, Secretary Greg Meredyk, Treasurer and Membership Chairman Pat Rath, Harvesting Manager Steven Olson, Garage Sale Chairperson Leanne Anderson, Margie Marsyla, Tom Leach and Linda Peterson. The President also mentioned those members not present- Chuck Munson, Bonnie and Jerry Maxwell and Kay Klumpner who would be attending but would be late.

SECRETARIES REPORT

President Rath then called upon the Board Secretary, Greg Meredyk to read the minutes from the 2007 Annual meeting. Upon completion of the reading of the minutes, Board President Rath asked for a motion to approve the 2007 annual meeting minutes. There was a complaint voiced by member Art Orosco who stated he would neither approve nor disapprove the minutes as he had trouble hearing the recitation and that there was so much information that he felt that hard copies of the minutes should be made available to the membership. President Rath stated that this concern was so noted. The board president then asked for any other corrections or comments. Former board secretary Ginny Zell stated she could hear every word and stated her appreciation for the secretary's efforts. Board member Leanne Anderson also pointed out that our by laws require a reading of the secretaries minutes. The board president then asked for a motion to approve the 2007 minutes. Leanne Anderson so moved. Former board president Mike Zell seconded. The minutes were so approved with one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT

President Rath called upon Board Treasurer Pat Rath to give the Treasurer's report. Pat pointed out some of the major changes to this years report. Chief among these is the change in the association's Fiscal Year which now runs from January to December. He also stated that membership income is down and that overall expenses were also down. He pointed out that equipment expenses were considerably higher last year. Pat also reported that the purchase of a new truck was our largest expenditure with a cost of \$23,638.00

Pat stated that our expense report is a little more detailed than it had been in years past. He reported that we as an organization have been re-rated by our workers compensation insurance carrier which has saved us a good deal of money. Pat stated that year to date we have \$4500.00 in the bank. Our Checking account balance was \$4756.00 year to date, and the CD's the organization holds currently is \$6000.00 this being down due to the purchase of the new truck. Pat pointed out that our largest source of income was from memberships and our annual garage sale. Mike Zell asked if a reason our income was down was that donations were down from last year. Pat pointed out that although our individual memberships were up this year- 156 memberships as opposed to 143 in 2007 that our business memberships were down from 7 to 3. Pat also stated that other donation amounts were down as well. Ginny Zell asked if we could be expecting any additional donations this year such as from BSALWMP. Vice President Ron Conzet asked if there was any substantial increase in memberships this year after our annual informational handouts. Pat estimated there were about 20.

Bev Rath asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Margie Marsyla so moved. Tom Leach seconded. The motion carried,

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As mentioned previously in the Treasurers report Pat Rath reiterated that individual memberships were up from 143 the previous year to 156. Business Memberships were down from 7 to 3. Pat reported that this year he is hoping for increased energy from the board to continue to develop our business membership. In response to a question from the membership about publishing our membership list he stated that we do not publish our membership list as this is a privacy concern. Another question from the membership was how many lake shore residents are there. Pat stated close to 500.

President Rath asked for a motion to accept the membership report. Leanne Anderson so moved. Tom Leach seconded. The motion carried.

WATER CLARITY REPORT

Greg Meredyk gave the water clarity report. As in years past he passed around the Secchi disk, described the method

in which readings are taken and gave a brief history of the Secchi disk. He stated that our readings are more in line this year compared to last year where the drought produced some remarkable readings far in to the summer. Greg commented that in a normal year our best readings are in the spring and that the readings tend to deteriorate through the summer with some slight improvement in the fall. For comparison he compared the May readings this year against the readings taken at the end of July of this year. He also stated that Lake Minnewawa has the longest continual history of water clarity readings in the state and cited his 2 predecessors David Warner Sr. and Paul Bredow for their years of service. He also mentioned for those who were interested that they may find the complete history of Lake Minnewawa Secchi readings at www.pca.state.mn.us.

There was a question from Mike Zell asking if we receive any grant monies from the in-kind hours that have been put in performing these readings. President Rath answered in the affirmative. Mike Zell also commented on how in his years as a lakeshore owner how the overall condition of the lake has improved.

HARVESTING REPORT

The Harvesting report was given by harvesting manager Steven Olson. Steve commented on the positive impact the purchase of the new truck. The association had appointed association member Rick Peterson to be the point person on the purchase of a vehicle. Steve thanked Rick for his invaluable assistance and also pointed out that the paint job was also a direct result of Rick's efforts. He reported that the truck has a 240 horse diesel engine and had been a "boom" truck in its previous service with Pelican Rapids Power. A chief benefit to having this kind of a truck is that the front end is heavier than our previous truck. This makes it ideal for hauling the harvester out of the water. He also reminded the memberships that the old truck was a 1977 Dodge and that replacement parts for repairs were becoming very difficult to come by. He stated that the transmission of the old truck was in very poor condition. Steve recommended that the association sell it as a snow plow truck after we repair the transmission.

Steve reported that we have pulled out 116 loads of weeds this year as opposed to 274 last year. This is due to a colder and rainier spring than last year which inhibited weed growth. He also stated we have been able to get in to areas on the lake that we have not been able to in years past because lake levels have been higher due to the rainy spring. Steve mentioned that once again the harvesting of Mat Weeds continues to be a problem due to the nature of the plant. Steve also thanked his harvesting crew of Don Roman, the harvester operator and Gary Dahler, our truck operator. He thanked them not only for their efforts on the lake but off the lake as well. As a team they have been proactive about maintenance of the equipment. Looking forward, Steve reported that the trailer is in need of replacement. Margie Marsyla asked how much a new trailer would cost. Steve estimated that a plain no frills trailer might cost about \$7000.00. Lyle Marsyla estimated a fancier model might run about \$20,000.00. In the immediate future we will need to purchase more conveyor belt. A member asked how long wills our harvestor last. Steve said as long as the frame and the fuel tanks hold it should last for quite some time. Another question from the membership was where are we disposing of the weeds we harvest. Steve stated that the same site on County road 6 that we have used in years past. Steve then answered general questions about fuel costs and the size of the fuel tanks on our equipment. He also mentioned that the state does not allow us to run our equipment with off road diesel. Board member Tom Leach suggested that we should rebuild the back end of the trailer from scratch. Tom commented that since he has taken on the job of welding our equipment that it's become pretty obvious that there was nothing left on the trailer to weld to.

The board president thanked Steve for his report.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The following candidates stood for election: Larry Antonsen, Greg Pfeifer, Mark Pawelski, and Curt Pieske. The following board members stood for re-election: Vice President Ron Conzet, Secretary Greg Meredyk and Garage Sale Chair Leanne Anderson. This still left two open positions on the board. Margie Marsyla stated that if needed she would continue to serve on the board.

Questions from the membership included- What are the board members responsibilities. President Rath replied that we do a great deal of volunteering such as Clean up of county road 6, The association garage sale and various other fund raising efforts such as Hay Days in Tamarack and Wild Rice Days in McGregor.

Bev stated that in future she hopes that a board member will take over management of our web site.

The results of the elections were all members standing for election or re-election were elected. All board members will have a 3 year term with the exception of Leanne Anderson who agreed to a one year term.

Leanne Anderson once again called on all members to be active in our organization reminding them that one does not have to be a board member to volunteer. Bev stated that she keeps a list of people who are willing to donate their time to our efforts.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Rath began her report by thanking the board for their continued efforts in making our organization a success. She also gave a special thanks to retiring members Kay Klumpner and Jerry Maxwell for their tireless contributions of their time over the years.

Bev continued by extending special thanks to our business members Christian Realty, Wiley's Marine and the Horseshoe Lake Inn. Bev again reminded those present that you don't need to be on the board to volunteer for the association. She urged anyone who is interested in volunteering their time to get in touch with her as she is always updating our list of volunteers. She also stated that anyone who is interested in volunteering for the garage sale should contact Leanne Anderson directly.

Bev stated that her vision for the coming year is to continue our commitment to our mission. We shall continue our involvement with BSALWMP and to continue to utilize the funds available through the 3 year in-kind grant we received from that organization. This grant is due to expire in 2009. Thus far we have utilized \$5200.00 of the \$8000.00 grant as of May 2008. We have utilized this grant chiefly on the refurbishment of several of the public access ramps around the lake. It is her hope that we utilize the funds left for plantings at these sites to help prevent erosion and run-off.

Bev mentioned the education grant we received of \$2175.00 of which we have \$1399.00 left. She suggested that one of the ways we utilize this money is the publication of our new lake management plan. Bev also stated that these grants are in-kind, meaning that the hours we put in are reimbursed through the grant. Bev cited the example of "Kids Fishing Day" as in-kind reimbursement. Margie Marsyla commented that this went quite well this year with 6 boats and 28 children attending. The board president stated that there are several workshops that are coming up in the future. If anyone chooses to attend one of these, the Association will reimburse them for their cost associated with attendance.

Next, Bev announced the completion of our new lake management plan. This plan is the culmination of a 2 year cooperative effort between the LMA and the state DNR. The plan is currently posted on our web site and is available for downloading. The plan will be in effect until 2012. Bev passed out to those present a hand out that highlighted the key items of this plan. Bev stated that in the recent past there has been much debate about the use of chemical herbicides on the lake as a means of controlling weed growth. It was noted that in 2005 a total of 6 permits were issued for chemical use on the lake and automated control such as a weed roller there were 13 permits issued. There were also a list of 16 different issues listed that faced lakeshore property owners and 12 different issues related specifically to that of aquatic plants. Bev focused on the action plan and goals sections of the report highlighting who is responsible for what. Bev reminded the membership that the state mandates we may not harvest weeds closer than 150 feet from shore.

OPEN FORUM

A concern was raised about snails. Their main issue was the bad smell they exude when washed on shore. The answer that came from the board was that the snails are actually a sign of positive lake health. This information is available on the DNR web site.

Margie Marsyla reminded those present that our web site is www.LMA.org.

Kristen Lesberg had a question about the possibility of Walleye stocking, she commented on how many large walleyes have been caught but not many smaller sized Walleyes. With this in mind she asked if we had a slot Limit on our lake. Bev replied a good person to talk to on this would be Ed Feiler with the DNR. A reply from the board was that the DNR stopped stocking our lake about 10 years ago. New Board member Curt Pieske stated that he has a friend that works for the DNR and stated to his knowledge that a slot limit is extremely difficult to get in place. There was also a question about flags and their availability. The reply from the board was that new flags are on order and in the process of getting printed. A sign up sheet for those wanting a flag was passed around. .

There being no other questions President Rath asked for a motion to adjourn. Board member Tom Leach so moved. The motion was seconded by board member Margie Marsyla. The 2008 annual meeting of the Lake Minnewawa association adjourned at 10 minutes before 11.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Meredyk,
Secretary, Lake Minnewawa Association